



HOUSING HAPPENINGS



Marlborough Community Development Authority—Housing Division

Winter 2014

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WINTER 2014...BRRRR!

This year has started out to be a cold one, with temperatures well below freezing. We hope that all of tenants and clients are keeping warm and safe.

As the new year rolls on there is much to look forward . Two projects which were started in 2013 will be finished in 2014: the long-awaited Liberty Hill Court Yard modernization and the Bolton Street Parking and Walkway expansion.

The Empowerment Program will be holding new workshops based on your feedback and evaluations from past workshops. Some of the workshop topic suggestions are:

- Financial Aid for College
- Learning about Housing & HUD
- Benefits and Services for Residents

The challenge of providing affordable housing has never been greater. The MCDA-HD is consistently engaged in finding ways to improve the existing affordable housing in our community as well as the lives of our clients

and residents. Our goal is to provide the essential stability that comes from having safe, decent and affordable housing.

The 2013 community collaborations have allowed the MCDA-HD the ability to enhance communication between ourselves and public safety as well as other health and safety professionals. We look forward to continuing these dialogues as these individuals have provided positive reinforcement in the lives of our clients and residents.

Together we can continue to implement innovative approaches and enhance the affordable housing in Marlborough.

We also encourage you, the tenants, to let us know what you would like to know more about or if you would like to be a contributor to the newsletter.

You can submit ideas for workshops, news articles and general suggestions to Deb Noble via email at dnoble@marlborough-ma.gov or by phone 508-624-6908 x. 103 .

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Our office is closed on the following holidays:

- Presidents Day, Feb. 17, 2014
- Good Friday, 1/2 day Apr. 18, 2014
- Patriots Day, April 21, 2014

Family Farming Shares in Framingham

Hanson's Farm in Framingham is offering Community Supported Agriculture (or CSA) shares for 2014 that include U-Pick berries and a wider selection of vegetables. Those who join by Groundhog's Day, Feb. 2, will receive a free U-Pick

Flower Share, as well as \$25 in Framingham Farmers' Market Bucks if the groundhog sees its shadow.

The full season share is \$650 for pickups every week for 20 weeks from mid-June through the end of October. An alternative

share is \$350 for pick-up every other week..

Applications and more details are available at hansonsfarmframingham.com.

For more information, email—hansonsfarm@gmail.com.



APARTMENTS AVAILABLE IN BROOKLINE FOR DISABLED VETERANS

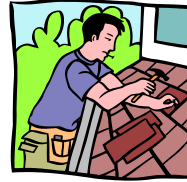
The Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) has two 2-bedroom wheelchair accessible apartment available at their High St. Veterans Development. Eligible families may submit a DHCD application to BHA (available at the MCDA-HD office). Be sure to indicate that a wheelchair accessible apartment is required. Questions? Please contact Desiree Ladd at 617-277-2022 x 316 or email at dladd@brooklinehousing.org.

OXFORD COURT IS ACCEPTING APARTMENT APPLICATIONS

Oxford Court, located in Clinton, MA is accepting applications for one and two bedroom apartments. Your monthly rent includes heat, hot water and air conditioning. The apartment complex has the following amenities: on site laundry, parking, an indoor pool and a fitness center.

To find out more information please apply in person at One Coolidge Place, Clinton MA or call 978-368-8755. Office hours are from 10—5 pm, Monday through Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

MARLBOROUGH CDA HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM



The Marlborough Community Development Authority is accepting applications for grants to be used for emergency repairs of your home. There is no interest and no monthly payment.

Based on your income, you may qualify for the following repairs: Chimney Repair, Doors & Windows, Electrical, Heating, Plumbing, Roofs & Porches and Removal of Lead or Asbestos.

IMPORTANT: In order to qualify you must be the owner/occupant of the property and meet the income guidelines.

For more information and to apply, please contact the MCDA, 255 Main St. (Walker Building), Suite 209, Marlborough or call 508-460-3715 Monday thru Friday from 8:30 to 4:00 pm.

Funding for this program comes from the MA CDBG, the DHCD, the MCDA and the City of Marlborough.

It's Tax Time.... Free Assistance Available

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

The VITA Program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$52,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in local communities.

The TCE Program offers free tax help for all with priority assistance to people who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement issues unique to seniors. IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

In addition to traditional face-to-face tax preparation, the IRS is offering a Self-Assistance Service at many VITA and TCE locations. If individuals have a simple tax return and need a little help or do not have access to a computer, they can visit one of the participating tax preparation sites and an IRS-certified volunteer will guide them through the process.

You may find a site near you between January and April by calling 1-800-906-9887. A majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide Program. To locate the nearest TCE site or AARP Tax-Aide site between January and April call 888-227-7669.

In Marlborough there is free tax prep and e-filing sponsored by the MCDC on Saturday mornings. Call or text 508-361-6926 to make an appointment